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dages of the genus *Atrypa*, by R. P. Whitfield. Professor Hall's contributions to Palæontology include a compendious extract from his work on the Graptolites (Decade ii, of the Canadian Geological Survey), extracts from Vol. 4 of the Palæontology of New York, and observations on the Niagara limestone of Wisconsin and Illinois. The extracts are principally notices of the generic characteristics of the Devonian genera, filled with facts of the greatest value to the student of this group, and the observations trace the relation of the Niagara group, of New York, to the Guelph limestone of Canada, and the limestones of Racine and Le Claire in Wisconsin, which are said to be identical with a thin bed of limestone in Wayne county, New York, formerly referred to the Onondaga Salt Group. The lithographer has not, apparently, done full justice to Mr. Whitfield's masterly drawings, but all the plates are good, and some deserve high praise.

NATURAL HISTORY MISCELLANY.

BOTANY.

VARIATION IN WILD PLANTS.—Cultivation gets more credit for producing variation in species than I think it is fairly entitled to. The production of double flowers is especially referred to the gardener's art. I think this is rarely the case. Double Buttercups (*Ranunculus acris*, *R. bulbosa*, and *R. ficaria* all have double forms) could scarcely result from cultivation, as they are too common to be ever a cultivated plant. Yet we rarely see any tendency in this direction in wild plants. The only one I ever found double was a *Saxifraga Virginiensis*, in a shady wood on the Wissanickon, some fifteen years ago. It was transplanted to my garden, but destroyed the same season by a careless laborer. Has any other double flower been found?—T. MEEHAN.

Saxifraga Virginiensis was found full-double at Danvers, Mass., three years ago, and it continues so from year to year. It is well worthy of the florist's attention. Incipient doubling is not uncommon in a considerable number of wild flowers; but the process of doubling is doubtless accelerated under the conditions which attend cultivation.—A. GRAY.

ZOÖLOGY.

THE McNIEL EXPEDITION TO CENTRAL AMERICA.—In May last, Mr. J. A. McNiel, an enthusiastic and ardent naturalist and indefatigable collector, started on his expedition, under the immediate auspices and direction of the Peabody Academy of Science. Arriving at Panama he was cordially received, and aided by the officers of the Panama Railroad and